

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims shown below should be used to replace any previous listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A particle for controlled release of a fungicide, wherein the particle is solid and generally spherical and is from 0.1 to 200 microns in size and comprises a triazole fungicide dispersed in a polymer matrix at a molecular level or as ~~finely divided~~ pockets containing a plurality of triazole molecules, wherein the fungicide-to-polymer weight ratio is from about 1:99 to about 1:1, and wherein the triazole fungicide is selected from the group consisting of bitertanol, bromuconazole, cyproconazole, difenoconazole, epoxiconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, metconazole, myclobutanil, penconazole, propiconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, and triticonazole.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The particle of claim 1 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of cyproconazole, epoxiconazole, tebuconazole, triadimefon, and triadimenol.

4. (original) The particle of claim 3 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises cyproconazole.

5. (original) The particle of claim 3 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises tebuconazole.

6. (previously presented) The particle of claim 1 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises epoxiconazole.

7. (original) The particle of claim 1 wherein the polymer matrix comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(methylmethacrylate), poly(lactic acid), a poly(lactic acid-glycolic acid) copolymer, cellulose acetate butyrate, a poly(styrene), hydroxybutyric acid-hydroxyvaleric acid copolymer, a styrene maleic anhydride copolymer, poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid), poly(caprolactone), poly(n-amylnmethacrylate), wood rosin, a polyanhydride, a polyorthoester, a poly(cyanoacrylate), poly(dioxanone), ethyl cellulose, a ethyl vinyl acetate polymer, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), an acetylated monoglyceride, an acetylated diglyceride, an acetylated triglyceride, poly(phosphazene), chlorinated natural rubber, a

vinyl polymer, polyvinyl chloride, a hydroxyalkylcellulose, polybutadiene, polyurethane, a vinylidene chloride polymer, a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-acrylic copolymer, an alkylvinylether polymer, a cellulose acetate phthalate, an ethyl vinyl phthalate, cellulose triacetate, a polyanhydride, a polyglutamate, a polyhydroxy butyrate, polyvinyl acetate, a vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer, a vinyl acetate-vinylpyrrolidone copolymer, an acrylic polymer, an alkyl acrylate polymer, an aryl acrylate polymer, an aryl methacrylate polymer, a poly(caprolactam), an epoxy resin, a polyamine epoxy resin, a polyamide, a polyvinyl alcohol polymer, a polyalkyd resin, a phenolic resin, an abietic acid resin, a silicone, a polyalkylene oxide, and a polyester.

8. (original) The particle of claim 1 further comprising a plasticizer.

9. – 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A fungicidal composition comprising:

(a) particles that are solid and generally spherical and from 0.1 to 200 microns in size and which comprise a triazole fungicide dispersed in a polymer matrix at a molecular level or as ~~finely-divided~~ pockets containing a plurality of triazole molecules, wherein the fungicide-to-polymer weight ratio is from about 1:99 to about 1:1, and wherein the triazole fungicide is selected from the group consisting of bitertanol, bromuconazole, cyproconazole, difenoconazole, epoxiconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, metconazole, myclobutanil, penconazole, propiconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, and triticonazole, and

(b) an agricultural adjuvant.

13. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 12 wherein the fungicidal composition is in the form of a liquid suspension.

14. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 12 wherein the fungicidal composition is in the form of a wettable powder.

15. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 12 wherein the fungicidal composition is in the form of a granule.

16. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 15 wherein the granule is a water-dispersible granule.

17. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 12 wherein the agricultural adjuvant comprises a dispersant.

18. (original) The fungicidal composition of claim 12 wherein the agricultural adjuvant comprises a diluent.

19. – 35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a fungal disease in a target plant wherein the method comprises contacting a plant cell, a plant tissue, or a seed with particles which are solid and generally spherical and from 0.1 to 200 microns in size and comprise a triazole fungicide dispersed in a polymer matrix at a molecular level or as ~~finely divided~~ pockets containing a plurality of triazole molecules, wherein the fungicide-to-polymer weight ratio is from about 1:99 to about 1:1, and wherein the triazole fungicide is selected from the group consisting of bitertanol, bromuconazole, cyproconazole, difenoconazole, epoxiconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, metconazole, myclobutanil, penconazole, propiconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, and triticonazole.

37. (original) The method of claim 36 comprising contacting a seed with the particle.

38. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein the contacting is performed before the seed is planted.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises cyproconazole.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises tebuconazole.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises epoxiconazole.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises triadimenol.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the triazole fungicide comprises triadimefon.

45. (original) The method of claim 36 wherein the polymer matrix comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(methylmethacrylate), poly(lactic acid), a poly(lactic acid-glycolic acid) copolymer, cellulose acetate butyrate, a

poly(styrene), hydroxybutyric acid-hydroxyvaleric acid copolymer, a styrene maleic anhydride copolymer, poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid), poly(caprolactone), poly(n-amylnmethacrylate), wood rosin, a polyanhydride, a polyorthoester, a poly(cyanoacrylate), poly(dioxanone), ethyl cellulose, a ethyl vinyl acetate polymer, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), an acetylated monoglyceride, an acetylated diglyceride, an acetylated triglyceride, poly(phosphazene), chlorinated natural rubber, a vinyl polymer, polyvinyl chloride, a hydroxyalkylcellulose, polybutadiene, polyurethane, a vinylidene chloride polymer, a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-acrylic copolymer, an alkylvinylether polymer, a cellulose acetate phthalate, an ethyl vinyl phthalate, cellulose triacetate, a polyanhydride, a polyglutamate, a polyhydroxy butyrate, polyvinyl acetate, a vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer, a vinyl acetate-vinylpyrrolidone copolymer, an acrylic polymer, an alkyl acrylate polymer, an aryl acrylate polymer, an aryl methacrylate polymer, a poly(caprolactam), an epoxy resin, a polyamine epoxy resin, a polyamide, a polyvinyl alcohol polymer, a polyalkyd resin, a phenolic resin, an abietic acid resin, a silicone, a polyalkylene oxide, and a polyester.

46. (previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed evenly throughout the polymer matrix.

47. (previously presented) A particle according to claim 1, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed as a concentration gradient in the polymer matrix.

48. (previously presented) A fungicidal composition according to claim 12, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed evenly throughout the polymer matrix.

49. (previously presented) A fungicidal composition according to claim 12, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed as a concentration gradient in the polymer matrix.

50. (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed evenly throughout the polymer matrix.

51. (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the triazole fungicide is dispersed as a concentration gradient in the polymer matrix.